

Legislative Priorities Generated from the Childhood Cancer Summit of 2010

The Childhood Cancer Summit generated a successful discussion between several of the nation's top doctors, researchers and legislators that prioritized a number of policy objectives. Some of these goals involve proposed legislation which needs to be passed by the House and Senate. Others are ideas that we plan to explore in the coming months and take the necessary steps to implement.

H.R. 2109: The Childhood Cancer Survivorship Research and Quality of Life Act of 2009

- Introduced by Congresswoman Jackie Speier (D-CA).
- Enhances research and programs on pediatric cancer survivorship.
- Authorizes NIH grants to research and evaluate systems of follow-up care for childhood cancer survivors, as well as survivorship outcomes in minority or medically underserved populations.
- Authorizes HHS grants to establish training programs for health care professionals to improve follow-up care for survivors.

S. 3697: The Creating Hope Act of 2010

- Introduced by Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS).
- Provides a market-based incentive for pharmaceutical companies to develop drugs to treat rare and life-threatening pediatric diseases, including cancer.
- Offers a *priority review voucher* to companies which develop such drugs, which would allow the company to expedite FDA approval for any other drug—such as a blockbuster drug—and bring it to market faster.

Reauthorization of BPCA (Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act) and PREA (Pediatric Research Equality Act)

- The Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act and the Pediatric Research Equality Act will be up for reauthorization in 2012.
- Congress should expand on these initiatives to provide better incentives for pediatric cancer drug development, and to facilitate pediatric studies on drugs that may be effective to treat certain childhood cancers.
- Great opportunity for Congress to use established mechanisms and improve them to make a meaningful impact on childhood cancer treatments.

Creation of a Pediatric Study Section at the NCI (National Cancer Institute)

- In order to ensure fair and adequate consideration, Congress should explore working with the NCI to create a pediatric study section.
- Children are not small adults, and the types of cancers they fight are fundamentally different than adult cancers—therefore, *pediatric* experts should evaluate the grant applications that issue money to help treat children.
- By creating a childhood cancer study section at the NCI, federal funding could be used in a more effective and efficient manner.